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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for modifying the irradiation distribution of a radiation source, ~~in which method~~ comprising the steps of

- using the radiation source ~~(1) is used~~ to direct radiation to an essentially planar target surface ~~(6)~~,

~~characterized in that~~wherein,

- between the radiation source ~~(1)~~ and the target surface ~~(6)~~, several plates ~~(4)~~, which are essentially transparent to the radiation and have spaces between them, are placed closer to the radiation source ~~(1)~~ than to the target surface ~~(6)~~, ~~in order to use the~~ whereby the reflection and absorption of the transparent plates ~~(4) to~~ attenuates the radiation to the desired areas.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined in~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transparent plates are positioned essentially parallel to the target surface ~~(6)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as ~~defined in~~ according to claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one diffuser ~~(3)~~ is positioned between the radiation source and the transparent plates.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as defined in claim 1 or 2 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a flash tube ~~(1)~~ is used as the radiation source and the target surface ~~(6)~~ is a solar panel.

5. (Currently Amended) A method ~~in accordance with claim 1~~ according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transparent plates ~~(4)~~ are arranged in a conical stack between the radiation source ~~(1)~~ and the target plane ~~(6)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transparent plate ~~(4)~~ closest to the radiation source ~~(1)~~ is placed from the source ~~(1)~~ at a distance ~~(d)~~ of 5-20%, ~~typically at a distance (d) of 10%~~ of the distance ~~(e)~~ between the source ~~(1)~~ and the target ~~(6)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A device for modifying the irradiation distribution of a radiation source, which device comprises

- a radiation source ~~(1)~~ by means of which radiation can be directed to an essentially planar target surface ~~(6)~~,

~~characterized in that~~wherein

- between the radiation source ~~(1)~~ and the target surface ~~(6)~~, several plates ~~(4)~~, which are essentially transparent to the radiation and have spaces between them, are placed closer to the radiation source ~~(1)~~ than to the target surface ~~(6)~~, ~~in order to use the~~whereby reflection and absorption of the transparent plates ~~(4)~~ ~~to~~ attenuates the radiation to the desired areas.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The device as defined in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transparent plates are positioned essentially parallel to the target surface ~~(6)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The device ~~as defined in~~ according to claim 7 or 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one diffuser ~~(3)~~ is positioned between the radiation source and the transparent plates.

10. (Currently Amended) A device ~~as defined in~~ according to claim 7 or 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a flash tube is used as the radiation source and the target surface ~~(6)~~ is a solar panel.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The device ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim ~~1~~ 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transparent plates ~~(4)~~ are arranged in a conical stack between the radiation source ~~(1)~~ and the target plane ~~(6)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The device ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim ~~1~~7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transparent plate ~~(4)~~ closest to the source ~~(1)~~ is placed from the source ~~(1)~~ at a distance ~~(d)~~ of 5-20%, ~~typically at a distance (d) of 10%~~ of the distance ~~(e)~~ between the source ~~(1)~~ and the target ~~(6)~~.

13. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein the distance is 10% of the distance between the source and the target.

14. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the distance is 10% of the distance between the source and the target.

15. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the transparent plates absorb up to 75% of the total radiation.

16. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the transparent plates absorb between 5 to 40% of the incident radiation.